



**BOBBY JINDAL**  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**Governor's Office of Homeland Security**  
**and**  
**Emergency Preparedness**

**PAT SANTOS**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact: Veronica Mosgrove**  
[veronica.mosgrove@la.gov](mailto:veronica.mosgrove@la.gov)  
**(225)358-5667**

### **GOHSEP RECEIVES GRANT FOR EMAC DEVELOPMENT**

**Baton Rouge, LA (September 20, 2011)** – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) division has been awarded a \$50,000 grant. The funding will be used to develop response capabilities when Louisiana is called upon to assist other states during emergencies.

The training will be developed in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's Office. The workshops will focus on Louisiana Task Force Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams and Fire Fighting Strike Teams. Louisiana Task Force USAR Teams are highly trained and equipped to respond to all hazards including weapons of mass destruction (WMD), terrorism, structural collapse, water rescue, and vehicle rescue incidents of major proportions.

"Louisiana's assistance is often requested by other states because of our expertise in dealing with disasters. The ability to quickly and efficiently respond to EMAC missions will enable Louisiana to provide critical support not only within our state, but to other states requesting our assistance," said Interim GOHSEP Director Pat Santos.

State Fire Marshal Butch Browning said, "When a devastating tornado ravaged Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Governor Jindal dispatched 130 Louisiana Firefighters to assist in search and rescue efforts. This mission would not have been possible three years ago as we had no state USAR capabilities. The Office of State Fire Marshal is proud of this collaborative endeavor with local and regional fire service partners since we provide highly specialized technical rescue services when there's a disaster."

"The Department of Public Safety is proud to partner with the Louisiana Fire Service as we stand ready to respond and provide specialty rescue services in times of disaster. Responding to emergencies is not an individual effort but the collective effort of partner agencies. Receiving this grant award is another example that Louisiana is leaning forward in our efforts to ensure the safety of Louisiana's citizens and our neighbors," added Superintendent of State Police Col. Mike Edmonson.

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The \$50,000 grant was awarded by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). The training exercises will include deploying resources, verifying credentials, maintaining roster and electronic database of deployed individuals, issuing event photo badges, conducting safety and EMAC briefings, providing mobilization assistance and demobilization functions which include check-in, debriefing of personnel, issuing reimbursement guidelines and other instructions.

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